# DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and other records for 1955.



R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., ch.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health



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## DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Byland Lodge,
Durham.

September, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my third Annual Report, being that for the year 1955. The Council first met in 1895 so that the year under review is its 60th.

The Vital Statistics may be said to be satisfactory and thus support the impression that the health of the community was, in general, good throughout the year. In particular it is pleasing to note that the Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest recorded in the District and approximates to the rate for England and Wales as a whole. (The rate is 25.5, sixty years ago it was 195 and thirty years ago, 95). The Still Birth Rate is lower than that for England and Wales.

Regarding Infectious Disease, the most noteworthy feature was the outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever which occurred, happily without fatalities. The work of the Department in connection with it, and in connection with the outbreak of Dysentery which is also described, was considerably eased by reason of the splendid cooperation accorded by all who were concerned.

The serious atmospheric pollution problem in Coxhoe continued during the year while strenuous efforts were being made to instal plant to combat it. (At the time of writing most of the plant has been installed and the indications are that it is achieving its object).

Again I am glad to have the opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your support and encouragement during the year and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. C. Taylor and the staff of the Health Department for their continued cooperation and assistance.

As in previous years Mr. Wilson has undertaken the considerable amount of detailed work involved in this Report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	•••	• • •	• • •	34,08	57
Population (Regination)					70
Number of inha 1955) accord		`		oer, 10,24	<b>1</b> 1
Rateable value	(December	1955)	• • •	£140	,480 0s. 0d.
Sum represented	l by a per	nny rate	• • •	£517	. 0s. 0d.
Registrar Genera	al's Area	Comparabi	lity Fa	ctors—	
Births Deaths	•••	•••	• • •	0.98 1.18	
Live Births:					
Legitimate Illegitimate		tal. Male 543 285 7 5		le. Rate p	per 1,000 pop
Total		550 290	260	16.2 (adjust	ed 15.9)
Still Births:				<b>,</b>	,
Legitimate		10 7	3		
Illegitimate	• • •	$\frac{10}{2}$ 1	1		
		12 8	4	$\stackrel{?}{\sim} 21.3$ p	er 1,000 pop. er 1,000 live
				and sti	ll births.
Deaths:					
(All causes)	• • • •	<b>377</b> 190	187		1 70 4 )
Infant Mortality:	(Deaths	of childre	n under	` '	ed 13.1.) age).
•	•			Rate per	1,000 live
Legitimate Illegitimate	•••	$\frac{14}{-}$ $\frac{7}{-}$	7		irths 5.5.
Deaths from Mea	asles (all a	ages)	• • •	•••	0
Deaths from Wh	nooping Co	ough (all a	ages)	•••	0
Deaths from Dia	rrhoea (u	nder 2 yea	ars of a	ge)	1
Deaths from Car	ncer (all a	ges)	• • •	•••	63
Deaths from Tul	berculosis	(all ages)	• • •	•••	10

# Section A—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

#### (1) Natural and Social Conditions.

Area. 34,057 Acres. The District consists of eighteen parishes surrounding for the most part the City of Durham and the Urban District of Brandon and Byshottles. It borders also with Lanchester, Chester-le-Street, Easington and Sedgefield Rural Districts and Hetton, Spennymoor and Crook and Willington Urban Districts.

In April, 1955, some 530 acres of land were ceded to the City of Durham at Framwellgate Moor, on which 294 houses belonging to that Authority were built.

Industries. Mainly Coal Mining and Agriculture.

Population. The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 33,970, a decrease of 890 from 1954. This is accounted for mainly by the transfer of population to the City of Durham as mentioned above.

Inhabited Houses. According to the Rate Books the number of inhabited houses in the District is 10,241.

#### (2) Vital Statistics.

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors.

Births	• • •	 • • •		• • •	 	0.98
Deaths		 • • •	• • •	• • •	 • • •	1.18

These figures are a means of adjusting the rates for births and deaths, so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales as a whole, in so far as distribution by age and sex is concerned. The adjusted rates are those to be compared with the rates for England and Wales and with the similarly adjusted rates for other areas.

Births. During the year 550 births were registered, 290 males and 260 females. Of these 7 were illegitimate.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 15.9 is slightly lower than the rate for last year (16.9).

Table I shows the comparison of the Live and Still Birth Rates with those for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of Durham, and Table II the figures over the past 10 years in comparison with those for England and Wales and County Durham over the same period.

Deaths. 377 deaths were registered during the year, 190 males and 187 females. The death rate (adjusted) of 13.1 is practically the same as that of 1954 (13.3.) The rate for England and Wales is 11.7 (Tables I and II).

Table III shows the individual causes of death. Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 127 of the deaths registered or 34% compared with 38% in 1954.

There were 63 deaths from Cancer equivalent to 17% of all deaths. The figure in 1954 was 17%. The death rate from Cancer is 1.85 per 1,000 population, the figure for England and Wales being 1.88.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis number 8, an increase of 3 from the previous year. Two deaths from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered.

#### 3. Infant Mortality.

Infant Mortality—(Deaths of children under 1 year of age). (Tables I, II and IV).

The rate of 25.5 per 1,000 live births is the lowest ever recorded in this District. It is to be compared with 29.9 in 1954 which is the previous lowest yearly rate.

Fourteen children died before reaching one year of age.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are—

1946		36	1951	• • •	28
1047		31	1952		21
1948		39	1953	• • •	24
1949		30	1954	• • •	18
1950	• • •	16	1955	• • •	14

These numbers should be read in conjunction with the rates given in Table II and should be borne in mind in assessing the change in the rate over the years.

As the number of infant deaths each year is comparatively small, too great significance should not be attached to a single rate.

Reference to Table II shows the fall in the rate which this year is only slightly higher than that for England and Wales.

Eleven children of the fourteen who died before reaching one year of age were less than one week old. Eight of these deaths were due to prematurity. Of the three children who died aged between 1 month and 1 year, one died of gastro-enteritis, one of bronchitis and one of congestive heart disease.

#### 4. Maternal Mortality.

The one maternal death was the first for eight years.

#### Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### 1. Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health ...

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B.,

D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health—City of Durham, Urban District of Brandon and Byshottles. Assistant County Medical Officer, County Durham.

Chief Sanitary

Inspector ... A. C. Taylor, Esq., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspectors ... W. C. Brewer, Esq., C.R.San.I., Dip.P.H.H.

A. R. Moorhouse, Esq., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.

The Sanitary Inspectors possess the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Rodent Officer ... W. SAYER, Esq.

Health Office.

Chief Clerk ... MR. A. WILSON.

Clerk Typist ... Mrs. M. E. Jordan.

#### 2. Laboratory Services.

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Department of Pathology.
- (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
- (iii) Public Analyst, Victoria Road, Darlington.

#### 3. General Medical Services.

Durham County Executive Council, 20, New Elvet, Durham.

#### 4. Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

Durham Hospital Management Committee, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

- (a) General.
  - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
  - (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
  - (iii) Crossgate Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).
- (b) Maternity.
  - (i) Dryburn Hospital.
  - (ii) Croxdale Maternity Hospital.
- (c) Infectious.
  - (i) Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital.
  - (ii) Langley Park Isolation (Smallpox).
- (d) Tuberculosis.
  - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
  - (ii) Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
  - (iii) Chest Clinic, Earl's House Hospital.
  - (iv) Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, Gilesgate Hospital.
- (e) Mental.
  - (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgefield.
  - (ii) Aycliffe Hospital.
  - (iii) Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
  - (iv) Earl's House Hospital.
  - (v) Crossgate Hospital, Durham.
- (f) Pre-Convalescent.

Brandon Hospital

(g) Venereal Disease Clinic.

County Hospital, Durham.

#### 5. Durham County Council Health Services.

- (a) School Health Service.
- (b) Ambulance Service—County Ambulance Headquarters, Framwellgate Moor, Durham.
- (c) Health Visiting.
- (d) Home Nursing.
- (e) Domiciliary Midwifery.
- (f) Domestic Help.
- (g) Vaccination and Immunisation.

- (h) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
  - (i) Child Welfare Centres—

Belmont—Parish Hall.
Coxhoe—Social and Literary Institute.
Durham—14, Old Elvet.

Gilesgate—Vane Tempest Hall. Sherburn Hill—Miners' Welfare Hall.

(ii) Artificial Sunlight Clinics—

Coxhoe. Durham.

(iii) Birth Control Clinics—

Coxhoe. Durham.

(iv) Post Natal Clinics—

Coxhoe. Durham.

- (i) Prevention of illness, care and after care, loan of equipment and appliances.
- (j) Accommodation under Part III National Assistance Act, Crossgate Hospital.

#### Section C.—1. Water Supply.

The Durham County Water Board provided a piped water supply of good quality to most of the District, the properties served being connected directly to the public water mains, there being no stand-pipes.

In the late autumn depletion of the Board's resources arising mainly from low rainfall over the Catchment areas led to the imposition of restrictions, these taking the form in some areas of the supply being available only from street stand-pipes.

Other supplies throughout the District are:—

Parish.

Supply.

Source.

Brancepeth

... (i) Brancepeth Village.

Spring. Filtered and stored, piped.
(Water Board supply available as alternative).

	(ii)	Wooley Close Farm. South Brandon Farm. Brawn's Den Farm. Weather Hill Farm.	Well. Pumped, chlorinated stored and piped.
Framwellgate Moo	r (i)	Frankland Farm.	Spring. Hydraulic ram. Piped.
	(ii)	Frankland Park Farm.	Spring. Collected to tank.
Pittington .	• •	Hillside Farm.	Reservoir, piped.
		Elemore Cottages.	Well, pumped and piped.
Witton Gilbert .	(i)	Cote Hill.	
	/••\	Fell Houses.	Spring.
	(11)	Laverick Hall.	Spring.
1	• •	Heather Lad Inn.	Spring.
Kelloe	* 1	Southern Law Farm.	
	(ii)	Kelloe Law Farm.	Colliery Supply, piped.
Shadforth .	• •	Hare Hill Farm.	Colliery supply.
			Pumped and piped.

#### Water Samples.

Table V shows the number of water samples taken during the year, classified according to the results of examination.

Brancepeth Parish—The "suspicious" samples were both considered to be not significant. One referred to the Durham County Water Board supply, the other (just outside the "satisfactory" limit) was in respect of a supply other samples from which were reported as "Highly satisfactory."

#### 2. Sewerage.

The following details have been kindly supplied by the Surveyor, Mr. K. G. Miller.

### (a) Sherburn Sewage Disposal Works Extensions.

The informal enquiry was held on 13th February, 1951. The estimated cost is £51,753. 8s. 8d. Work was commenced in April, 1954, and at the end of the year was still in progress. The sewer works were completed and it was anticipated that the disposal works will be completed in early 1956.

#### (b) Coxhoe and Bowburn Sewage Disposal Works.

The scheme was completed and ready for submission to the Minister early in 1956.

(c) Belmont Sewage Disposal Works.

A scheme was prepared and was submitted to the Council in February, 1956.

(d) General.

Alterations and improvements have been carried out to the

Council's sewers and sewage disposal works.

A new surface water sewer has been laid at West Rainton, and general maintenance and replacements to machinery and plant are constantly carried out in an effort to improve the standard of the effluent from sewage disposal works.

#### 3. Atmospheric Pollution.

The serious atmospheric pollution in Coxhoe, due to deposition of dust, which had commenced in March 1954, continued throughout 1955, except during January and February when the rotary kiln was out of action.

The dust is derived from the processing of dolomite in the Steetley Magnesite Company's Works at Coxhoe. Much comes from the tall chimney of the rotary kiln but a quantity is blown from the tall conical spoil heaps, this latter, it is thought, affecting particularly the Kelloe and Quarrington Hill areas. Analysis of it shows that it contains calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate in nearly the theoretical proportions for dolomite.

The amount of dust deposition is at times very great and has occasioned many complaints. Since March 1955 regular sampling at three points was carried out, using Atmospheric Pollution Deposit Gauges. The results show wide variation in the amounts deposited, but an average figure may be taken to be about 60 tons per square mile per month.

Proposals for minimising the dust emission are:—

- (a) a dust extractor to be fitted between the rotary kiln and the chimney.
- (b) Installation of a stone washing plant so that the stone being fed to the rotary kiln would be relatively free from adhering dust.
- (c) Replacement of the existing reject heaps plant with a conveyor system which would maintain the height of the tips at a level below the surrounding ground level and so eliminate to a large degree, dust being blown from tips.

The approximate total cost of these schemes is £150,000 and their installation is expected to commence in February 1956; and be completed by October of that year. The Company is responsible for their planning, execution and cost.

#### Section C.

# 4. Sanitary Inspection.

Below is a summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

### I. GENERAL SUMMARY.

Housing:—		No. of inspections.		No. of statu-tory notices served	Defects remedied after notice
Public Health and					
Housing Acts		902	96	9	26
Overcrowding	• • •	193	16		20
Overcrowding	• • •	130	10		
Sanitary Conveniences :					
T M. i		111	1	1	9
D-f4!	• • •	7	$\frac{1}{2}$	.1	$\frac{2}{2}$
Defective ,, Drainage	• • •	316	18	7	14
Water supply	• • •	28	39		1
Food premises	• • •	55	-	NameNampage	
Shops Act	• • •	39		-	
Dairies and Milk Shops	• • •	8	1		1
Slaughter Houses—Privat		1252			-4.
Tents, Vans, etc	• • • •	43		5	1
Fried Fish Shops	• • •	4		_	-3-
Factories and workplaces	• • •	37	7		5
Keeping of Animals		7			
Offensive accumulations		$\dot{6}$			-
Smoke nuisances		$2\overset{\circ}{2}$	1		
Prevention of Damage by					
Pests Act 1949		275	1		1
Dirty Houses		$\frac{1}{21}$		1	1
Privy Conversions		68	8		62
Dustbins—defective		26	796	-	600
		<b>34</b> 20	986	17	716
AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER					
Ashpit-privies converted Ash-closets converted Total number of wate Total number of ashch Total number of ashpi	into rclo lose	o watercle sets in Di ts in Dist	osets istrict rict	•••	22 40 10,426 553 37

Disinfection.

Disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants was carried out in houses where infectious disease was notified. During 1955 thirty-eight houses were so disinfected.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of the year there were 9,651 houses on the water-carriage system out of a total number of 10,241 houses, which represents approximately 91.4% on water-carriage system. There were 553 ash-closets and 37 ash-pit privies, and the great majority of these were in houses scheduled for clearance and demolition and houses in outlying parts of the District with no sewage facilities.

During the year 62 conversions to water-carriage system were carried out.

80 Ash-closets were demolished during the year.

It need hardly be said that whenever possible ash-closets and ash-pit privies should be replaced by a more modern system. It is incongruous, for example, to find them adjacent to fine Council housing estates in which every house has water-borne sanitation, and where their existence seems doubly offensive and dangerous by comparison, and indeed, may detract to some extent from the good conditions provided in the housing estate. As the numbers given above indicate, good progress has continued to be made although it will be difficult to maintain as many of those which are left present special problems.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

Regular weekly collection of refuse is carried out by direct labour in Parishes with the exception of Brancepeth (part), Hett and Sunderland Bridge.

A fleet of 8 Karrier Refuse Vehicles with a complement of 8 driver-fillers and 27 labourer-fillers was employed in the collection and disposal of refuse.

13 Refuse Tips were rented by the Council and at each the tipping was controlled.

Approximately 9,775 houses were dealt with by direct labour and 466 by contract.

Trade Refuse was removed from Factories and Canteens in the various Parishes on a rechargeable basis.

#### 5. Rodent Control.

During the year Rodent Control work was carried out at the Sewage Works, Sewers and Refuse Tips of the Council.

There were no major infestations during the year.

In accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements sewers were given two treatments with good effect.

Business premises were treated on a rechargeable basis.

Private houses were treated free of charge.

Table VI shows the number of properties inspected (this refers to the period of 12 months ending 31st March, 1956).

#### 6. Salvage.

The collection and sale of waste paper and miscellaneous scrap showed an increase over the previous year, nearly 20 tons more materials being collected with a gross increase in receipts of approximately £380.

The nett proceeds of the sale of these goods were divided as follows:—

60% to Workmen. 40% to the Council.

Below are details of sales during 1955.

Material.		Wei	ghts.		Re	eceij	pts.	$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{j}}$	pens	ses.
Waste Paper Scrap Metal Alloy Brass Lead Copper Wool Rags Other Materials Baling Charges Bonus to Workmen: Paper Scrap, etc. Balance to Council	8 1	C. 18 18 17 6 4 7 14 9 1	Qr. 2 1 0 1 1 2 2 1 0	Lbs.  14 25 14 9 20 25 12 0	$\begin{bmatrix} £ \\ 429 \\ 149 \\ 80 \\ 43 \\ 19 \\ 85 \\ 82 \\ 191 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$	s. 7 10 4 3 2 17 19 18 16	d. 6 1 6 2 4 11 0 7 1	99 198 395 395	- S	6 11 1 8
7	83	17	2	7	1087	19	2	1087	19	2

On 4th July, 1955, the system of deducting Baling charges to a flat rate of 35/- per ton of all paper sold was instituted.

#### Section D.—Housing.

Continued progress was made in the Councils' Housing Programme. 220 Council houses were completed making a post-war total of 2,503.

Table VII gives details of the sizes and disposition of Council houses completed in 1955 and also for the post war period.

TABLE VII.

#### (a) Ho

0	uses	com	pleted in 19	955.		
		Total.	91	143	8	220
		Total.	3 & 2 3 & 3	30 13	94.6 55.52	220
		Airey.			1	
	Dorm	reim. Prefab.			111	
	6	remp. Prefab.			]	
	Unity.					
		4			.	
	oms	ಣ	9 18	16	133	09
	Bedrooms	57	46	∞ <del>4</del>	± ± ± € € € € € € € € € € € € € € € € €	110
			4 60	9	18	50
	Y CONTRACTOR	Alea—ransn	Western— Bearpark Framweilgate Moor Witton Gilbert	Eastern— Belmont Leamside	Southern— Bowburn Kelloe Quarrington Hill	Total

# (b) Total Post War Council Houses completed.

1 (T			Bedr	Bedrooms.			Temn	Derm			
Area—ransn.			2	က	4	Unity.	Prefab.	Prefab.	Airey.	Total.	Total.
Western—Bearpark	Ö	40	152	95	9				50	313	1
Framwellgate Moor & Pity Me Witton Gilbert	8	18	96	140	28		12			282	702
Eastern— Belmont Leamside Shadforth		5 2 2 2 2 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	75 58 140	114 49 —	21  14	01	54	35	16 	228 244 20 394	
Southern— Bowburn Cassop Croxdale Kelloe Quarrington Hill		63	162   162   38   4	283  115 16	10	22		27	10 8 8 8	540 37 255 75	915
T	Total	283	747	1026	86	24	99	109	162	2503	2503
	į.										

Forty houses were built by private owners during the year.

As a result of informal action 71 houses were made fit under the Public Health or Housing Acts, and 15 were made fit by owners as a result of formal action and 1 by the Council in default of the owners.

During the year 81 demolition orders were made making a post war total of 540.

Seven properties were subject to Closing Orders. Seventy-six houses, the subject of demolition orders, were demolished and from these 242 persons were displaced.

One house in the Grainger Terrace, Leamside, Clearance area was demolished and 5 persons were rehoused, also 3 double tenants with a total of 10 persons were rehoused.

#### Overcrowding.

The known number of overcrowded houses at the end of 1955 was 50.

Eighteen new cases of overcrowding were revealed during the year.

Seventy-six families (comprising 374 persons) living in over-crowded conditions were rehoused.

#### Rehousing.

Seventy-nine families were rehoused from premises subject to demolition order.

Four families (15 persons) were rehoused from houses the subject of clearance order.

The Council's scheme for rehousing includes provision for priority to be given to families in which there is a case of pulmonary tuberculosis and the Medical Officer of Health represents that rehousing would be beneficial. This is governed by a requirement of residential qualification of one year. The scheme has proved easy of application throughout the year, no fewer than 11 families having been rehoused under its terms—undoubtedly a most beneficial provision in this disease, where the relationship with housing conditions is considered to be close.

Priority in rehousing may also be considered on other medical grounds where the influence of better housing conditions can be clearly shown to play a part either in recovery or adaptation. Two cases were dealt with during the year.

#### Section E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Food Shops numbering 168 and 8 food factories were regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Registrations were granted to the owners of 6 premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream and one for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food.

(b) The following quantities of unwholesome food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Pork			• • •	• • •	255	stone 9	lbs.
Mutton		• • •			65 lt	os.	
Cooked Ham		• • •			26 lb	os.	
Tinned Meats				• • •	78 ti	ins.	
Tinned Fruits					153	tins.	
Tinned Vegetabl	les	* * *	• • •		152	tins.	
Tinned Fish	• • •	• • •			7 tin	ıs.	
Tinned Milk	• • •				38 ti	ins.	
Salted Peanuts		• • •			54 p	ackets.	
Red Cabbage					10 ja	ars.	
Samples of water take	en fo	r analysis	S			• • •	22
	Mutton Cooked Ham Tinned Meats Tinned Fruits Tinned Vegetabl Tinned Fish Tinned Milk Salted Peanuts Red Cabbage	Mutton  Cooked Ham  Tinned Meats  Tinned Fruits  Tinned Vegetables  Tinned Fish  Tinned Milk  Salted Peanuts  Red Cabbage	Mutton  Cooked Ham  Tinned Meats  Tinned Fruits  Tinned Vegetables  Tinned Fish  Tinned Milk  Salted Peanuts  Red Cabbage	Mutton	Mutton	Mutton       65 lk         Cooked Ham       26 lk         Tinned Meats       78 ti         Tinned Fruits       153         Tinned Vegetables       152         Tinned Fish       7 tin         Tinned Milk       38 ti         Salted Peanuts       54 p         Red Cabbage       10 ja	Mutton        65 lbs.         Cooked Ham        26 lbs.         Tinned Meats           Tinned Fruits           Tinned Vegetables           Tinned Fish           Tinned Milk           Salted Peanuts           Red Cabbage

(c) Samples of water taken for analysis ... ... 22
Samples condemned as unfit for use ... ... Nil.
Siezures of unwholesome food ... ... ... ... 186

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924-1952.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses
Number killed (if known)						
Number inspected	1255	179	7	1815	1174	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcases condemned						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	349	41		2	26	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	27.8	22.9		0.1	2.2	
Tubercolosis only: Whole carcases condemned		1	_			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	35	27			7	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.7	1.6	_		0.6	_
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned			_			
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration			_			
Generalised and totally condemned			_			

# Section F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were two outbreaks of infectious disease, one of Dysentery and one of Paratyphoid Fever. Both are dealt with hereunder.

Scarlet Fever—There were 25 notifications. Only 9 cases were admitted to hospital. The character of the disease was mild. In 1954 there were 24 notifications.

Whooping Cough—There were 187 notifications as compared with 67 in 1954. 67 of these cases (or over one third) were in children

under the age of three years, 20 being less than 1 year old.

It is in young children that the disease is most distressing and dangerous. Whooping Cough should never be regarded as a "minor ailment of childhood," young children and debilitated children of any age should so far as possible be shielded from the risk of contracting it.

Immunising agents exist which are thought to confer a degree of protection against the disease. They are administered to numbers

of children in this District by General Medical Practitioners.

The Local Health Authority does not provide for their administration.

In 1955 no deaths were attributed to the disease in this District.

Poliomyelitis—The three notifications of acute non-paralytic poliomyelitis, all in adult females, were later revised after admission of the cases to hospital.

Thus, as in 1954 and 1953, there were no confirmed cases.

Measles—There were 479 cases notified, a five-fold increase on the figure for the previous year, 89.

In general the character of the disease was mild.

Diphtheria—There were no notifications, for the first time on record in this District.

The position in the previous ten years was:—

c positio	111 0110	1,10,10	010 0011	<i>J</i> • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
			Not	tifications.	Deaths.
1945	• • •	• • •		29	1
1946	• • •			17	1
1947	• • •		• • •	7	0
1948		• • •		14	0
1949	• • •			18	1
1950	• • •	* * *		4	1
1951	• • •		* * *	1	0
1952			• • •	3	0
1953	• • •			2	0
1954				2	0

Absence of cases, it should be clearly understood, does not constitute grounds for discontinuing immuniation against diphtheria. Rather the reverse, the non-immunised population being the more susceptible to the disease which may be imported at any time into the District.

The tables of diphtheria immunisation figures show that records were received of 299 children under the age of 5 having received during the year full courses of primary immunisation, the corresponding figure for 1954 being 308.

1,074 children under the age of 5 had completed a full course of immunisation by 31st December, 1955 (Table VIII). It is calculated that this figure represents only about 44% of these children eligible. This is a low figure. It seems likely that diphtheria can be eliminated only if a sufficiently high proportion of the population is immunised.

The County Medical Officer of Health arranges, that in order to draw attention to the need for immunisation, leaflets are distributed by posts at 8 months and 12 months and, to encourage re-inforcing doses, at the age of 4 years 9 months. These give details of the facilities available.

Acute Pneumonia—There were 25 notifications, as opposed to 28 the previous year. Cases occurred in all age groups.

Dysentery—The increase in notifications this year is mainly accounted for by an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in an Infants School in Bowburn Parish.

This outbreak had some features of interest and a brief account of it follows.

On Saturday, 5th February, information was received from the School Medical Officer that 30 children were absent from the school suffering from diarrhoea. (Number on roll 164). On enquiry it was found that cases of diarrhoea had been occurring from 20th January, the total until then being 39. In the area from which pupils attend the school numbers of cases of diarrhoea had been occurring, adults and pre-school children being affected also. Nevertheless most of the cases were in children attending this school and in several families the only member affected was a child at this school. Some had sought treatment from their family doctors, many had not.

The outbreak was not connected directly with the school meals, one third of the children affected did not take school meals (and about one third of the children attending school did not take school meals). However, three of the four School Meals Attendants had diarrhoea early in the week commencing 31st January.

By the evening of Monday, 7th February, the first result was received from the laboratory, on culture the organism of Sonne

Dysentery had been isolated from a faecal specimen from one of the School Meals Attendants.

The following day, the decision was taken to stop the school meals. This was done despite the lack of any evidence that any spread which had occurred could be attributed to the meals. In the circumstances, however, they constituted at least a potential means of spread. Furthermore, stopping them meant that all connection with the Central Meals Kitchen was broken.

A meeting of the Parent Teachers Association was given an explanation of the nature of the outbreak and the reasons for the various measures taken—these included, among others, the provision of paper towels in place of roller towels. The family doctors were kept informed, of course.

The outbreak gradually abated. By 4th March only three of the absentees from school were known to be affected with diarrhoea. On 8th March the service of school meals was resumed, and by that time the restriction had been withdrawn from three of the four School Meals Attendants who had been excluded from work.

By this time the number of children who had been absent from school with "diarrhoea" was 61.

One notable feature was the excellent co-operation achieved among all those concerned, thus enabling action to be decided, and taken, without any delay.

Nine cases of dysentery were notified in September and October from Bearpark. They occurred coincidentally with an outbreak of paratyphoid fever there.

Typhoid Fever—One case notified had the diagnosis changed after admission to hospital.

Paratyphoid Fever—An outbreak of paratyphoid B fever occurred in Bearpark.

The main features are as follows:—

On 14th September, 1955, two children, a boy aged 9 years and a girl aged 12, were admitted to Isolation Hospital with a diagnosis of enteric fever. The onset of the illness in each case was the beginning of the month.

On the following day a boy aged 13 who lived in Durham City but spent much of his time in Bearpark was admitted with the same diagnosis. The onset of his illness was about the same as the others.

They were all found to be suffering from paratyphoid B fever.

By 21st September, in addition to the three cases admitted to hospital there had been discovered 5 convalescent carriers and 2 symptomless excreters of the organism, a total of 6 families being involved.

By 17th November the numbers were:—

Admissions to Hospitals ... ... ... 5 Convalescent Carriers ... ... 6 Symptomless Excreters ... ... 7

and these were the final figures.

A possible origin of the infection in this outbreak was discovered. On the strength of a report that children had been bathing in the River Browney (and all other investigations into the source of infection having proved fruitless), it was decided to investigate the river bacteriologically, using a swab technique. (This was done in collaboration with the Consultant Pathologist, Dryburn Hospital) (Dr. J. E. Ennis).

The results were surprising.

The river was found to contain paratyphoid organisms on its entry to this District from Lanchester Rural District (that is, at Wallnook) and to continue to be polluted with them throughout its course in this District (a distance of 4 miles) until it passes at the Pot and Glass Sewage Works into the Durham City Area.

(The organism has, in fact, been recovered from points as far as Langley Bridge in Brandon and Byshottles Urban District).

The organisms were phage typed and two types found, one being the particular type isolated from all the cases and carriers (phage type 1).

There is no clear history of any of the persons affected having bathed in the river within the incubation period before the onset of the illness. It is known, however, that children were bathing in it during the summer (as, indeed, children have bathed in it during living memory). In an outbreak of this nature, moreover, the disease may spread by case to case contact. The origin may have been in a symptomless excreter or a missed case, the original infection having come from the river.

The Headmasters of schools near it were advised of the state of affairs and through the medium of the Press a warning was issued to parents of the advisability of ensuring that children do not play beside, nor bathe in, the river.

While the organisms have been shown to be present as it enters the District, there is nevertheless considerable pollution of the river after entry. In each matter a remedy is being sought.

Puerperal Pyrexia—Of the six notifications, five referred to hospital confinements.

Tuberculosis—(Table X) 38 new cases notified of pulmonary tuberculosis are an increase over last year's figures, and over the average for the previous ten years.

The figures for the previous ten years are:—
New Cases of Tuberculosis Notified.

				Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary.
1945	• • •			27	27
1946	• • •			23	13
1947		• • •	• • •	14	11
1948				23	17
1949		• • •		31	7
1950				47	11
1951			* 6 *	37	13
1952		• • •		41	10
1953		• • •		32	2
1954	• • •	• • •	• • •	20	3
Avera	ge for l	0 years	8		
	945-195		• • •	30	11
1955	• • •	• • •	• • •	38	9

There is no indication, therefore, of any reduction in the occurrence of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

There were 8 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 from other forms.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

				Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
1945	* * *	• • •		18	4
1946	• • •			14	4
1947	• • •	• • •		12	2
1948	• • •	• • •		7	3
1949	* * *			12	8
1950	• • •		• • •	15	1
1951	• • •	• • •		14	4
1952	• • •			12	0
1953	• • •			8	0
1954	• • •	• • •	• • •	5	1
Aver	age for 1	0 years	S		
	1945-195		• • •	12	3
1955	* * *	* * *		8	2

#### Section G.

# Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	MIO	No. on	,	Number	of.	Mia
Premises.	M/c. line No.	Regi- ster.	Inspections.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.	M/c line No.
1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	2				1
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	2	62	37	7		2
3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3	14				3
Total		78	37	7		

## 2. Cases in which defects were found.

	M/c.			ases in ere four		No. of	M/c
Particulars.	line No.	Found		To HM Inspec		prosec- utions	line No.
Want of Cleanliness Overcrowding Unreasonable temperature Inadequate ventilation Ineffective floor drainage Sanitary conveniences :—     (a) insufficient     (b) unsuitable/defective     (c) not separate for	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5   2 4	5 		3 - - 1 2		4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)  Total	12	7	6		7 13		12

# Number of Outworkers at August, 1955:—

Wearing Apparel	• • •	• • •	• • •	1
Household linen	• • •	• • •	• • •	1

TABLE I.

Comparisons of Birth Rate, Death Rate, Analysis of Mort-

Comparisons of Birth Rate, Death Rate, Analysis of Mortality in the Year 1955.

	Durham R.D.	England & Wales.		160 G towns.	160 S. towns
		Rates pe	r 1,000 P	opulation	 
Births. Live	15.9	15.0	17.2	14.9	14.9
Still (per 1,000 live and Still births)	21.3	23.2	24.4	23.2	23.3
DEATHS.					
All causes (excluding still births)		11.7	11.2	11.6	11.6
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus Whooping Cough	0.20	$0.39 \\ 0.00$	$0.33 \\ 0.002$	$0.45 \\ 0.00$	$0.37 \\ 0.00$
Diphtheria	0.29	$0.00 \\ 0.15$	$\frac{0.002}{0.20}$	$0.00 \\ 0.17$	$0.00 \\ 0.00 \\ 0.13$
Influenza		$0.07 \\ 0.01$	$0.20 \\ 0.03 \\ 0.001$	0.06	$0.07 \\ 0.00$
Pneumonia	0.33	0.49	0.40	0.53	0.45
pectoris	1.67	1.59	1.17	1.60	1.60
		Rates pe	r 1,000 li	ve births	•
Deaths. All causes under 1 year					
of age Enteritis & Diarrhoea	25.5	24.9	32.	25.1	25.2
(under 2 years of age)	0.89	0.37	1.08		

TABLE 1A.

## Comparison of Case Rates of Certain Infectious Diseases

		England & Wales.	Durham C.C.
	Per 1,	000 Popu	lation.
Notifications (corrected).			
Dysentery	1.12	0.83	1.95
Scarlet Fever	0.73	0.73	0.45
Whooping Cough	5.50	1.72	3.72
Diphtheria		0.003	0.01
Measles	14.10	15.61	14.01
Meningococcal Infection		0.02	0.02
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic		0.02	0.01
Acute Poliomyelitis—Non-paralytic		0.06	0.01
Paratyphoid Fevers	0.44	0.02	0.04
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers		0.004	0.001
Erysipelas	0.32	0.14	0.09
Acute encephalitis—infective		0.06	0.001
Acute encephalitis—post infective		0.04	0.001
Acute Pneumonia	0.73	0.62	0.65
Food Poisoning		0.29	0.16
Tuberculosis (all forms)	1.32	0.88	0.87

TABLE II.

COMPARATIVE TABLE WITH ENGLAND AND WALES AND WITH DURHAM COUNTY FOR PAST TEN YEARS. VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT FOR 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	Vear			Bir 1,00(	Birth Rate p 1,000 populati	per tion.	Dea 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000 population.	per ion.	Infant per 1,0	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	/ Rate Births.
	•			Ourham R.D.C.	Durham England Durham R.D.C. & Wales. C.C.	Durham C.C.	Durham R.D.C.	England & Wales.	England Durham & Wales. C.C.	Durham R.D.C.	England & Wales.	Durham C.C.
1945	*	•	•	18.9	16.1	18.9	11.4	11.4	12.0	44	46	54
1946	•		•	22.6	19.6	21.3	10.6	11.5	11.6	50	43	49
1947	•		•	21.5	20.5	22.2	11.3	12.0	12.1	43.5	41	50
1948			•	18.0	17.9	20.0	8.6	10.8	11.1	64.4	34	37
1949	•	•	•	17.7	16.7	18.7	11.7	11.7	11.5	50.0	32	44
1950			•	15.2	15.8	17.8	10.6	11.6	11.8	31.1	29.8	40
1951	•		•	17.6	15.5	17.6	11.8	12.5	12.4	47.3	29.6	42
1952	•	•	:	17.3	15.3	17.3	13.0	11.3	10.9	36.7	27.6	33
1953	•	•	•	18.2		17.7	11.2	11.4	11.0	39.5	26.8	33
1954	•	•	•	16.9	15.2	17.3	13.3	11.3	11.5	29.9	25.5	31
Mean fo	or 10 yea	Mean for 10 years 1945-54	4	18.4	16.8	18.9	11.5	11.5	11.6	43.6	33.5	42
1955	•	•	:	15.9	15.0	17.2	13.1	11.7	11.2	25.5	24.9	32

TABLE III.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

				Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	• • •	•••	• • •	4	4
Tuberculosis—Other	• • •	• • •		1	1
Syphilitic disease	• • •			1	
Diphtheria	• • •	• • •		Vertice-tunk	
Whooping Cough		• • •			
Meningococcal Infections				1	Vierni, v.
Acute poliomyelitis				-	
Measles		• • •			
Other infective and parasitic dis	eases			1	
Malignant neoplasm of stomach		• • •		10	8
Malignant neoplasm of lung and		hus		3	4
Malignant neoplasm of breast				-	6
Malignant neoplasm of uterus		• • •		-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic i	neoplas	sms		12	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia				2	3
Diabetes	• • •	• • •		3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous syste	em	• • •		29	27
Coronary disease, angina	• • •	• • •		36	21
Hypertension with heart disease		• • •		6	7
Other heart diseases		• • •		17	30
Other circulatory disease	• • •	• • •		7	3
Influenza	• • •	• • •		-	
Pneumonia	• • •	• • •		5	7
Bronchitis	• • •	• • •	• • •	7	7
Other diseases of respiratory sys	tem	• • •	• • •	4	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		• • •	• • •	5	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	ι	• • •	• • •	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis	• • •	• • •		1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	• • •	• • •	• • •		
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	• • •	• • •			1
Congenital malformations	• • •	• • •		3	2
Other defined and ill-defined dis		• • •	• • •	18	23
Motor vehicle accidents	• • •		• • •	6	2
		• • •	• • •	4	4
Suicide		• • •	• • •	1	
Homicide and operations of war	• • •	• • •	• • •	2	
Total (all ca	iuses)	• • •	• • •	190	187

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Total.	œ	<u> </u>	4	1			J	14
9-12 months.	1				1	1	1	
6-9 months.						-	1	23
3-6 months.	Ì			<b>~</b>	1		1	1
1-3 months.			1	1	1	1	1	
Total under I month.	œ	7	-	İ	-	1	1	11
3-4 weeks.	1	1	1	1	1	1		
2-3 weeks.	1	1		İ		1	1	
1-2 weeks.	1	1	1				Ì	
Under I week.	∞	П	П	1		Ì		111
Cause of Death.	Prematurity	Intracranial haemorrhage	Pneumonia	Gastro- enteritis	Atelectasis	Bronchitis	Congestive heart disease	

TABLE V.

WATER SUPPLY—RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

		Classific	cation.		
Parish.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Total
	Highly Satisfactory.	Satis- factory.	Sus- picious.	Unsatis- factory.	
Bearpark	1	1	_	<u> </u>	2
Belmont	1	_	<u> </u>	<del></del>	1
Brancepeth	6	1	2	<u>—</u>	9
Bowburn	3	_		_	3
Coxhoe	1			_	1
Framwellgate Moor and Pity Me	1	_	_	_	1
Sherburn	1				1
Sunderland Bridge	3		_	<u> </u>	3
Witton Gilbert	1		_		1
	18	2	2		22

TABLE VI.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1956.

		Type of	Proper	ty.	
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	All Other.	Agri- cultural.	Total
Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	41	10241	411	178	10693
Number of properties inspected as a result of:  (a) Notification	2	92	13	1	107
(b) survey	39	118	23	4	180
(c) otherwise		99	176		275
Total inspections carried out including reinspections (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	41	349	48	3	438
Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats —Major			_		_
—Minor	22	108	7	1	137
(b) Mice —Major					
—Minor		10	8		18
Number of infested properties (in section IV) treated by the L.A.	22	118	15	1	155
Γotal treatments carried out including re-treatments	54	_	15	_	69
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:  (a) Treatment					
(b) Structural Work	_				
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out					

TABLE VIII.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1955.

Live Births	Live Births registered.	Number of chil completed a finmunisation a to 31.	Number of children who had completed a full course of mmunisation at any time up to 31.12.55.	Records received during the year of full courses of Primary immunisation.	Records received during the year of full courses of Primary immunisation.	ing the Primary	Records received during the year of reinforcing injections.
1954	1955	Under 5	5—15	Under 5	5—15   Total	Total	0—15
602	544	1,074	3,611	299	59	328	121

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF IMMUNISATION AT ANY TIME UP TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

14 1941	536
13 1942	561
12 1943	312
11	776
10	169
9	265
8	200
7	258
6	278
5	256
4 1951	288
3 1952	254
2 1953	277
11954	225
Under 1. 1955	30

Section F.

TABLE IX.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications of Infectious Disease were received as follows:—

Ophthal- mia Neona- torum.	Fi			
Oph n Ne torn	M.			
Puer- peral Pyrexia.	Í,	9		9
Meningo- coccal infection	ഥ	1		
Meningo- coccal infection	M.			
Food Poison- ing.	Έi	1		1
Food Poisor ing.	M.			
y- las.	Fi	$\infty$		$\infty$
Ery- sipelas.	M.	ಣ	- 62	က
ra- noid er.	Ħ	7	140	∞
Para- typhoid Fever.	M.	_	- 4 67	7
eric r hoid er.	F	-	1111	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	M.			1
Acute Enceph- alitis lethar- gica.	Ħ			1
Acute Enceph alitis lethar- gica.	Ĭ.	Ì		1
all- x.	H		1111	1
Small- pox.	M.			1
Dysen- tery.	Ħ	18	1 mm d m	18
	M.	20	10 10 2	20
rte Su- nia.	E.	6	ର ଜ ସ	6
Acute pneu- monia.	M.	16	w   4r a	16
ANGLE .	Original	Notifica- tions	Final numbers after correction $Y_{rs}$ . $0-5$ $5-14$ $15-44$ $45-64$ $65$ and over	Total (all ages)

#### TABLE X.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MORTALITY RATES.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Mortality Rate per 1,000 population—0.23 Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis Mortality Rate per 1,000 pop.—0.06

New cases of Tuberculosis Notified during 1955.

Ages.		Pulme	onary.	Non-pulmonary.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1— 5 years 5—10 years 10—15 years 15—20 years 20—25 years 25—35 years 35—45 years 45—65 years		- - 1 1 - 4 - 8 1	$     \begin{array}{c}                                     $	- 1 - 2 1 - 1		
		16	22	5	4	

Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at 31st December, 1955.

		Pulmo	onary.	Non-pu	lmonary.	Total.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
31st December, 1955 31st December,		102	97	23	23	125	120
1954	• •	105	87	19	21	124	108





